



January 11, 2013

Mr. Mark Carnes
US Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
3701 Bell Road
Nashville, TN 37214-2660

Dear Mr. Carnes:

Subject: Site Stabilization and Post-Planting, Bledsoe County Correctional Complex Stream & Wetland Mitigation (TDEC NRS 09.009, USACE 2005-02425).

You will probably recall that the wetland and stream mitigation for the Bledsoe County Correctional Complex (BCCX) failed to achieve all performance standards in 2011. In response to our mitigation report, TDEC, in December 2011, requested that we provide a revised plan to correct the failures at the site, which we did. The details of the plan were further described in an e-mail sent to you and Mike Lee on October 1, 2012.

This current letter is to notify you that the revised mitigation plan was implemented this week. The site was stabilized with over 2,500 ft of coir log erosion dams and replanted with 5,650 wetland-adapted tree and shrub seedlings. We are encouraged by the fact that a rainfall event that occurred the day after the coir logs were installed demonstrated that the log dams were effective at increasing residence time of water within wetland creation zones as well as preventing the movement of soils offsite. Both of these issues had been a problem in the past.

Attached for your review are several photos of the mitigation area that were taken on January 8-9.

Monitoring of the BCCX mitigation area will resume during this year's growing season and a summary report will be provided by October 31st. In the meantime, if you would like to visit the site, I would be pleased to give you a tour.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Durr
Chief Wetland Scientist

Enclosures: Planting and Coir Log Installation Photos

Cc: Mike Lee, TDEC Nashville
Helen Hennon, QE2



Photo 1. Because the original grading of the wetland creation area in 2010 was conducted late in the year, soil binding vegetation was never established. Subsequent rainfall caused significant erosion and loss of soil in some places. In effort to prevent continued site degradation, 2,550 ft of coir erosion logs were installed.



Photo 2. A total of 23 coir log “dams” were established on the 4.91 acre wetland creation site. All were secured by staking them in place.



Photo 3. To lessen the likelihood of water undercutting the dams, the coir logs were placed into shallow trenches. These were cut with a single blade plow.



Photo 4. The dams were spaced at approximately 40 ft intervals and were placed roughly perpendicular to the direction of water flow. Close inspection of the photo reveals several of these dams. This view is looking southward.



Photo 5. One day after the coir logs were installed the site received approximately 0.5 inches of rainfall. As can be seen, the dams were effective in ponding water. Equally important is that they will also help the accretion of sediments that will provide a better growth medium for wetland vegetation, both planted and invasive.



Photo 6. The revised mitigation plan also provided for the replanting of wetland enhancement areas. These areas had been mown several weeks earlier to facilitate planting.